

PSYCHE.

SOME OLD CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HARRIS, SAY AND PICKERING.—VII.

[PICKERING TO SAY.]

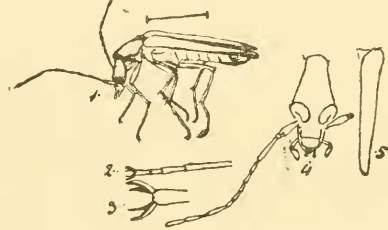
SALEM, Nov. 14, 1825.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter, dated Oct. 12th, by mail in due season: of that white *Pieris* I have but a single specimen which is, I believe, a male, though it is so much injured that I will not be certain about it; it does not apparently differ from that which I sent you which is as good a specimen as could be procured; as the species occurred frequently and within a short distance I most probably saw both sexes, and if there were any difference between them, at all conspicuous, I should have observed it: my attention was so much distracted by botany during my short visit to the White hills that I neglected the insects more than I ought to have done—and besides my whole collection of minute insects was lost, so that I did not bring home above a hundred species. Of these I will mention a few trusting that you will excuse me, if they prove to be familiar to you, as my opportunities of becoming acquainted with American insects are at present very limited, amounting principally to Turton's *Linnaeus*. I expect however to get access to your publications this Winter.

A species of *Nothiophilus* (not distinguishable by a short description from

N. aquaticus of Europe) occurred on the bald part of the mountains to the very apex of Mount Washington. At the same locality I took a *Thanasimus*, differing from the description of *T. formicarius* in having the anterior fourth of the thorax black—its length is a little over a fifth of an inch.



1. The perfect insect, line above natural size. 2. The hind tarsus. 3. Last joint of the tarsus. 4. Front view of the head. 5. Elyt.

On the road through the Notch I found a *Cimbex*—length of the body nearly one inch, tergum black-blue with a yellow spot on each side of the 5, 6, and 7 segments, wings fuscous at the middle and tip, it is a female.

The insect of which I send you a sketch* I am unable to refer to any genus I can find described; it belongs to the family *Cantharidae*; it differs from *Lytta* in having the head gradually tapering behind the eyes into an indistinct

*[Determined by Mr. Samuel Henshaw as *Cephaloon unguare* Lec.]

neck, and narrower than the thorax; the description of the antennae of *Zonitis* does not apply as you will see; and the elytra are not abruptly attenuated as in *Apalus* (with the habit of the two last genera I am unacquainted); the outer division of the nails serrated beneath; a single specimen was taken on flowers of the *Heracleum lanatum* on the sides of the White M.

If any of these prove new to you I will send you drawings in the Spring. My collection of insects is not at present very extensive amounting to not above 1500 species collected by myself in this vicinity. Of those insects described by you in the appendix of Major Long's 2nd expedition I have the following, *Cistela sericea*, *Spectrum femoratum* (my specimen is also a male), *Chauliodes serricornis*, *Dolerus inornatus*, *D. arvensis*, *Fœnus tarsatorius*, *Sigalphus*

sericeus, *Chalcis microgaster*, *Tiphia inornata*, *Pompilus fascipennis*, *Cero-pales bipunctata*, *Eumenes fraterna*. Mr. Little of Boston has taken two or three specimens of your *Clytus speciosus* near that place, and Mr. Oakes of Danvers has also taken a specimen.

Under the bark of rotten pine stumps I have several times met with the moluscous animal which I have sketched—in its living state it seems to differ from *Limax* in the complete destitution of a shield, but in specimens preserved in spirits it is seen that the shield covers the whole of the upper part of the body taking the place that the cloak usually does? It does not agree with any of the subgenera of Cuvier. I should like to know whether you are acquainted with this animal in Philadelphia.

Yours,
CHARLES PICKERING.

A MERITED HONOR.

Rarely in these times do the great universities of the world confer their highest honors upon students of the natural sciences; far more rarely has it been that such honors have been conferred upon those whose merits have been won by investigations in systematic entomology. The more noteworthy, hence, is the bestowal, recently, by the University of Heidelberg, of the honorary degree of Doctor of Natural Science, on Baron C. R. v. Osten Sacken—"qui de scientia entomologica excolenda, novisque rationibus illustranda optime meruit." The honor was all the greater because it required the unanimous approval of the Faculty conferring it. It is an honor well deserved, and none will rejoice over it more than the American entomologists, and especially the American dipterologists.

Baron Osten Sacken's work has been chiefly related to American dipterology, but the ripe fruits of his wide experience, and broad grasp of principles have enriched all dipterology, and, I believe, all entomology. Others there are and have been who have won enviable honors in systematic dipterology; others who have written more extensively than he, but no one has written more that will be appreciated in the future than has Baron Osten Sacken. His work has not been free from error, for that is impossible, but it has always been conscientious and rich with suggestions. However radically one may differ from him in certain of his views, their cogency will not be questioned.

Baron Osten Sacken's health has not been good for some years past, but his friends will rejoice that it has of late improved, and will hope for many papers from his pen yet to appear.
S. W. Williston.